

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

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UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR,FW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PROPOSED TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SERVICES TO
GUADELOUPE BY EASTERN AIRLINES

REF: 76 STATE 056355

1. GENERALLY, WE HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT EASTERN S TWICE
SERVICES TO GUADELOUPE WERE OF LIMITED IMPORTANCE TO THE
TOURISM INDUSTRY THERE. IN ANY CAS, EASTERN S PLANS TO
SUSPEND ITS SERVICES TO GUADELOUPE, IF APPROVED, WOULD DIMINISH
ONLY SLIGHTLY THE AIRLINE S OVERALL SERVECES TO THE TWO
FRENCH DEPARTMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE END RESULT MAY
BE A HIGHER OVERALL QUALITY OF ITS SERVICES IN THE AREA.
THE PROS AND CONS TO EASTERN PROPOSAL SEEM TO US TO BALANCE OUT.

2. WE CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE FRENCH WEST
INDIES NEED GOOD EFFICIENT SERVICES BY AT LEAST ONE MAJOR U.S.
AIR CARRIER (SUCH AS AMERICAN AIRLINES) WHICH COULD COORDINATE
ITS TOURIST FLIGHTS TO THE CARIBBEAN WITH ITS DOMESTIC ROUTES IN
THE POPULATED AREAS OF THE MID-WESTERN STATES. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT
WOULD, WE BELIEVE, ATTRACT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF U.S. VISITORS
TO HELP THE STRUGGLING TOURIST INDUSTRY HERE AND DO SOMETHING
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TOWARD ESTABLISHING A MUCH NEEDED MONEY EARNER FOR MARTINIQUE

AND GUADELOUPE. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE, WE HAVE AN
IMPORTANT LONGTERM INTEREST IN SEEING THE FWI SERVICED BY U.S.
CARRIERS. A VIGOROUS TOURIST INDUSTRY IS IMPORTANT TO THE
ECONOMY AND STABILITY IN THE FWI, AND WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO
INCREASE AIR SERVICES, UPONS WHICH TOURISM DEPENDS SO MUCH.
SHACKLETON

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